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Alaska Population Overview

• Alaska Department of Labor

• **Jay S. Hammond,** Governor

Alaska Population Overview

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FOREWORD

Alaska Population Overview began nearly a year ago as a hand-out of frequently requested population data. This report has been written for those who request population data most frequently. These are: program planners, market analysts, individuals writing proposals and studies, municipalities preparing grant applications, users of affirmative action data, health researchers, developers and users of State and Federal Revenue Sharing figures, and various other individuals interested in the history, composition, and future of the Alaska population. The size of this publication grew as the number and complexity of incoming requests and questions increased.

No state agency in Alaska is currently responsible for production and distribution of population information. Since there is strong demand for this information, the Department of Labor does publish population estimates which were originally developed for internal purposes. The Department of Labor also provides indicator data to the U.S. Census Bureau which is used to produce Census Bureau estimates for Alaska – relied upon between the ten year censuses. In response to demand for more detailed population information, the Alaska Department of Labor developed a proposal for state funding assistance of a continuing population estimating program. The Population Studies Division of the Office of Financial Management in Washington State graciously allowed us a week to study their operation and organization. Although the Department of Labor population study proposal was not approved in Fiscal Year 1980, there is a chance the proposal will be funded in Fiscal 1981.

Alaska Population Overview focuses upon historical and current fluctuations in the age, race, and sex composition of Alaska's population. This report also outlines changes of state sub-areas from 1960 Election Districts to 1970 Census Divisions, and then to 1980 census areas. Included is a discussion of population growth since the 1970 census examining the causes of growth in various census divisions. Migration and its influence upon the Alaska population are treated briefly. Race and active duty military figures are also presented. The methodology used to produce the 1978 population estimates is discussed in the Appendix.

This publication does not include the following types of data: income or poverty information, literacy, language, or family size information, the number of handicapped, educational attainment, marital status, veteran status data, or vital statistics.

The Alaska Department of Labor does publish a number of booklets detailing the employment, unemployment and wages of the various industries and occupations found in Alaska. An employment forecast publication, Alaska Employment Outlook to 1985 is also available. Labor market information may be obtained through the Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section, Box 1149, Juneau, Alaska 99811. Phone (907) 465–4500.

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INTRODUCTION

Alaska is a land of contrasts. Its large boundaries encompass several languages and a wide range of population densities and lifestyles. Alaskans inhabit the most expansive state in the U.S. The population of Alaska, however, is the smallest in the nation and approximately one half of all Alaskans reside in the Municipality of Anchorage. Alaska lifestyles vary significantly from place to place, and through seasons and years. Contrasts such as these complicate population studies in Alaska.

While maintaining a definite frontier aspect, the Alaska population is gradually becoming more like that of the rest of the United States. The Alaska Native population in spite of its high natural rate of growth is expanding much less rapidly than the general population which is bolstered by migration. Improvements in transportation and communications bring mixed blessings to the state – from the widening variety of food and produce available to the homogenization and centralization which may accompany these advances. The phenomenal growth accompanying pipeline construction days has raised questions concerning desirable rates of growth for Alaska's population and economy. These social and economic changes will continue to draw the demographic composition of Alaska nearer to national norms.

HIGHLIGHTS

- With roughly 0.2 percent of the U.S. population, Alaska is the nation's least populous state.

- Due in large part to migration, the Alaska population has grown an estimated 37 percent between 1970 and 1978 – a growth rate 5 times greater than the comparable U.S. rate.

- Nearly 40 percent of the Alaska residents of 1970 had been living outside of Alaska 5 years previous.

- Although the age/sex profile of Alaska is drifting nearer to that of the U.S., the Alaska population maintains distinctive elements of a frontier population.

- The military population in Alaska has declined an average of 3 percent annually since 1970. On July 1, 1979, the number of active duty military was roughly 23,300.

- The seven most rapidly growing census divisions between the years 1970 and 1978 all received direct or indirect stimulus from petroleum development. Moderate growth divisions were sustained by renewable resource industries.

- In the 1980 census, 23 census areas will be used as Alaska "counties". In 1970, 29 census divisions were used; and in the 1960 census, 24 election districts served as county equivalents for Alaska.

- Alaska's population size appears to have responded to several major historical events over the past century. Two distinct periods of population growth divide this 100 years of Alaskan history. The first, a period of very low growth, extends from the pre-Gold Rush era to the end of the Great Depression. The second, a period of rapid growth, spans from construction of the Alcan Highway to the present.

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HISTORY

The uniqueness of Alaska is reflected in the population of the state. Alaska offers a vast land mass, great natural wealth, and a prime strategic location in combination with severe weather, transportation and communications difficulties. Attempts to overcome the obstacles in order to tap the benefits have, by and large, shaped the population of Alaska. Certain marked changes in population size are related to historical events such as construction of the Alcan Highway in 1942. Changes in the age/sex profile, on the other hand, correspond with economic and military conditions. For example, increased readiness for World War II was reflected in a doubling of the number of males 20–24 years of age. This section discusses these population changes and concludes with a presentation of population projections to the year 1985.

POPULATION GROWTH: 1880–1980

Alaska's population growth appears to have been stimulated by several major historical events of the past century. Two distinct periods of population growth divide this 100 years of Alaskan history. The first, a period of very low growth, extends from the pre-Gold Rush era to the end of the Great Depression. The second, a period of rapid growth, spans from the construction of the Alcan Highway (1942) to the present.

Pre-Gold Rush – Great Depression

The first period began with ten quiet years as the population of Alaska declined slightly between the years 1880 and 1890. The next ten years, however, brought rapid growth. Within 30 years after the purchase of Alaska from Russia, the first of a succession of gold rushes began. Immigrants seeking quick financial gain contributed to an average annual population growth rate of more than nine percent over the ten year period which ended in 1900. The rampant expansion of the Gold Rush years was followed by a period of relative calm, beginning at the turn of the century. World War I broke out in 1914. Between 1910 and 1920, Alaska experienced its greatest ten year spell of population decline. Following this decline, slow growth was registered between the 1920 census and the 1930 census. More pronounced growth occurred during the Great Depression, suggesting that a substantial immigration resulted as people sought to avoid or overcome the poor economic conditions (lack of jobs) in the rest of the country. It is interesting to note that the mid-1970's recession also spurred immigration as Alaska's economy was bolstered by pipeline activity.

World War II – Present

In sharp contrast with the sedate beginning of the first major growth period, the second period began abruptly. This start was marked in 1939 with preparation for World War II, and was followed three years later by the construction of the Alcan Highway. An increasing awareness of the strategic importance of Alaska was beginning to emerge and the push was on to develop air bases and an over-land transportation corridor. An interplay of military movements, improved transportation, and other factors combined to produce an annual growth rate of approximately seven percent over the twenty years between 1940 and 1960. During the 1960's, population growth in Alaska slowed to a rate comparable to the moderate Alaska growth rates of the Great Depression years. With the 1970's came the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the 200 mile offshore judiciary limit, and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline project. Direct

and indirect impacts of pipeline construction drove total nonagricultural wage and salary employment growth to a peak of 26 percent annually for two years, 1974 and 1975. The Alaska Department of Labor has estimated that resident population grew 15 percent in 1975, fueled by the influx of pipeline workers and other persons seeking work. Upon completion of the pipeline, this spectacular 15 percent population growth appears to have temporarily lapsed into very low growth. While employment growth in industry and government is taking up post pipeline slack, population growth is expected to be sluggish until 1981.

LAYOUT OF THE 100 YEAR GRAPH

Figure 1, Total Population of Alaska (100 years) is designed to illustrate various aspects of Alaska's population growth and to relate this growth to significant historical events in a long term perspective. The following describes basic parts of the graph and includes some guidelines for interpretation.

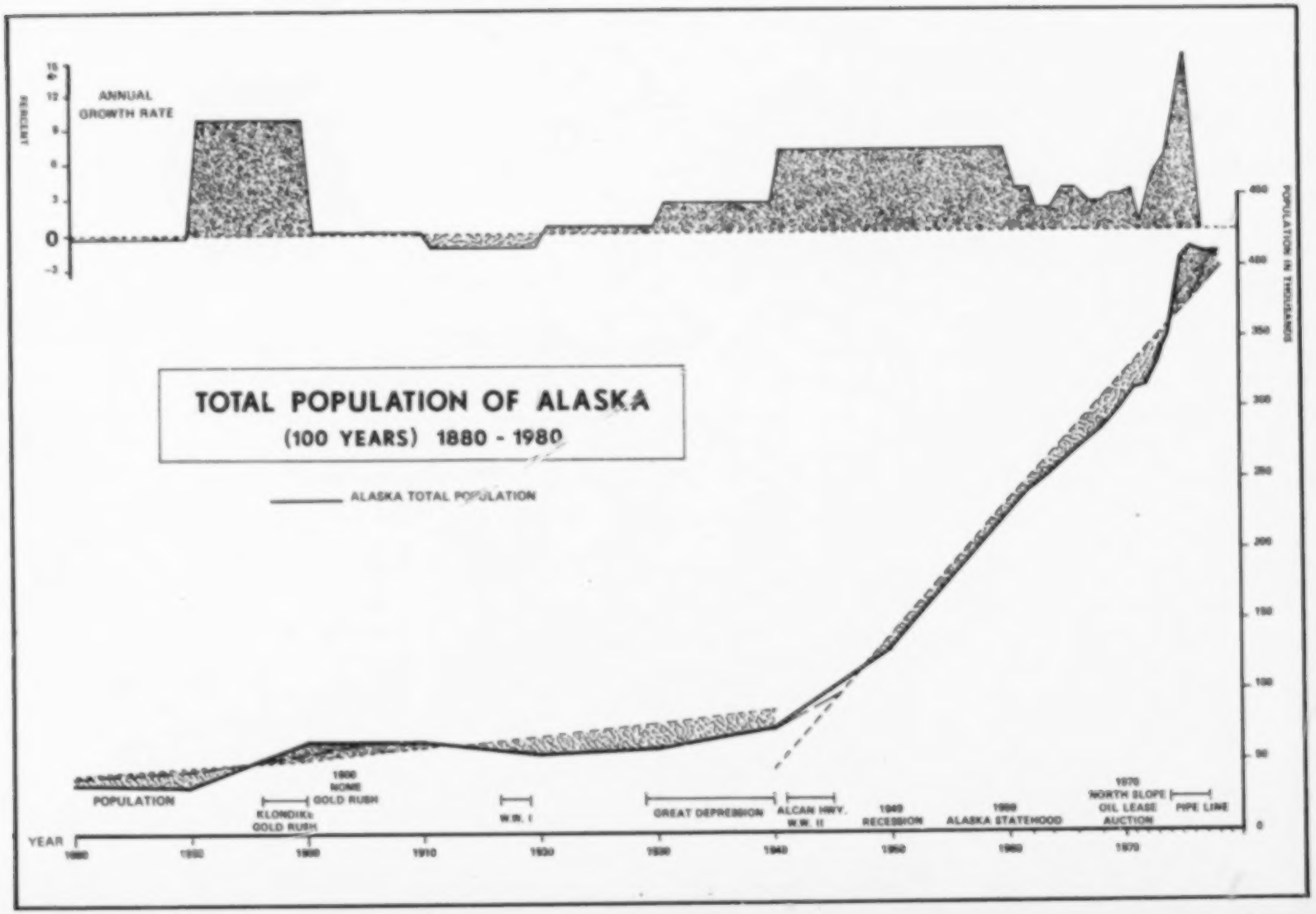
- The *Population Line* forms the foundation of this graph. The solid dark line represents the number of people in Alaska. Prior to 1961, population data is plotted at 10 year intervals. Between 1961–1969 and between 1971–1978, Department of Labor estimates are shown.

- The dashed *1880–1940 Trend Line* shows the straight line trend of population growth between 1880 and 1940. The area between the population line and the two trend lines has been *shaded* to highlight those time periods when population levels were above or below the long term trend. The steeper *1940–1978 trend line* shows an accelerated population growth after construction of the Alcan Highway.

- The top portion of the graph shows *Annual Growth Rates* ranging from 15 percent *annual population growth* to 3 percent *annual decline.* This line is particularly useful for comparing population growth rates for different time periods.

- Located just above the dates at the foot of the graph is the *identification of significant historical events.* These were included to provide historical reference points.

FIGURE 1


ANNUAL
GROWTH RATE
PERCENT
15
12
9
6
3
0
-3
TOTAL POPULATION OF ALASKA
(100 YEARS) 1880 - 1980
ALASKA TOTAL POPULATION
POPULATION IN THOUSANDS
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
POPULATION
1900
NOME
GOLD RUSH
KLONDIKE
GOLD RUSH
W.W. I
GREAT DEPRESSION
ALCAN HWY.
W.W. II
1949
RECESSION
1959
ALASKA STATEHOOD
1970
NORTH SLOPE
OIL LEASE
AUCTION
PIPE LINE
YEAR
1880
1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
1960
1970

CHANGES IN THE AGE/SEX PROFILES OF ALASKA

The age by sex composition of a population is influenced by various factors including fertility, mortality, migration, and military transfer. Alaska's age/sex profile has responded dramatically to economic and military conditions during this century. The first part of this section will trace historical changes of Alaska's age/sex profile. An explanation of Population Pyramids follows this section.

The Alaska population profile of 1900 pictures a frontier state. Heavily dominated by males age 20–50, there were 2.6 males per female in the general population. Alaska's population was roughly half white and half non-white. At that time, the number of non-white males and females was nearly equal; however, 9 white males were counted per white female in 1900. The median age was 29 years.

In the decades following 1900, census data provides glimpses of social change associated with Alaska's transition from a frontier into a more developed state. By 1910 a number of prospectors had left. Although many children had been born, the population profile had not changed significantly since 1900.

The population pyramid of 1920 shows that young men were leaving Alaska more rapidly than older men. Those pioneers who remained were aging, and there was a greater percentage of children. The size of the population had dropped 14 percent between the years 1910 and 1920.

From 1920 to 1930 Alaska's population grew a moderate 7 percent. Most of the remaining stampeders from Gold Rush days may be seen in the bulge of males 40–60 years of age. More women had immigrated and males comprised only 60 percent of the state's population.

By 1940 relatively few pioneers are seen in the pyramid, and a greater proportion of women and children are present.

By 1950, an increasing awareness of the strategic importance of Alaska had developed. The Alcan Highway had been built, and a significant build-up of military had again increased the proportion of males in Alaska (this ratio had been falling since 1900). The number of children was increasing in both absolute and relative terms, and the median age had fallen to roughly 26 years (down from 31 years in 1910).

Alaska was admitted to the union and the 49th star added in 1959. The census of 1960 showed many more children, fewer military, and more women. The median age had fallen to roughly 23 and the percentage of males had dropped to 55 percent. Alaska had been experiencing continuous high growth since 1940.

The 1970 census showed the Alaska age/sex composition to be more similar to the U.S. profile in overall shape despite the fact that Alaska is younger, has a greater military presence (10 percent), and is slightly more dominated by males (54 percent).

The foot of the 1970 population pyramids for both the U.S. and Alaska are "tucked in" at the bottom reflecting the end of post World War II baby boom. In 1970 the median age was nearly 23 in Alaska, compared to 28 for the U.S. as a whole.

Geographically, Alaska is the largest state. Demographically, Alaska is estimated to have the smallest state population in the U.S. Because the population is small, sudden development of Alaska's vast natural resources can bring about sweeping change in the demographic composition of the state. At the same time, improvements in

communications, transportation, economic development, and the growth of government have all tended to draw the population profile of Alaska towards that of the rest of the country.

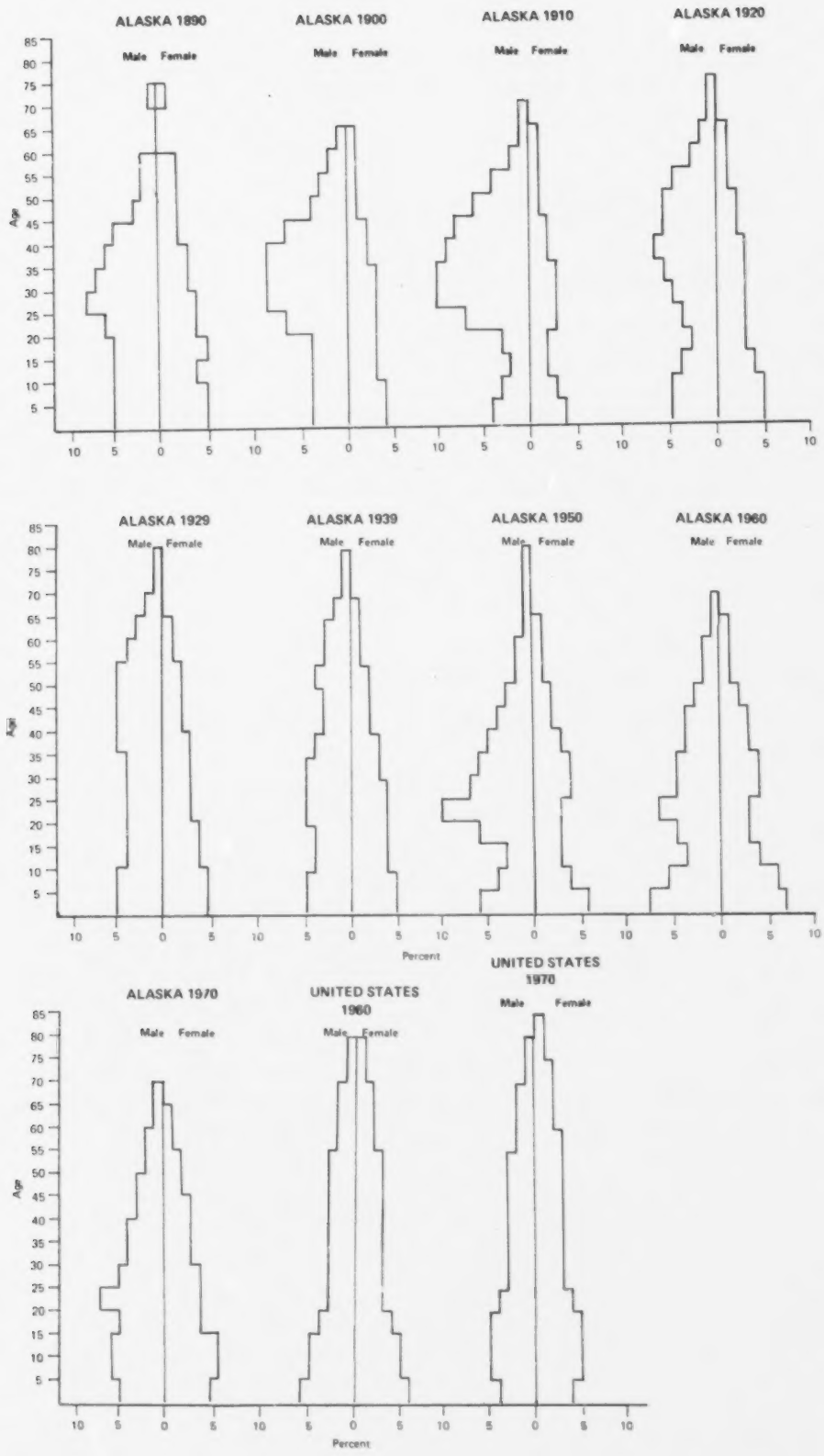
POPULATION PYRAMIDS: HOW TO READ THEM

This publication contains 40 diagrams ('population pyramids') illustrating the age-sex composition of Alaska at several points in time and by the 29 Alaska census divisions. These population pyramids are designed to display the relative proportions of males and females by age group. Each pyramid is centered on a vertical line above the '0' on the horizontal (percent) axis which extends to 10 percent in each direction. *Males are represented on the left of the center line* and *females are represented on the right.* Ascending the center line are five year age groups (under age 5, 5–9, 10-14, 15–19... 75–79, 80–84, 85 and above). The percentage of infants and children is represented at the bottom of the pyramid and the top of the pyramid represents the percentage of older people. From year-to-year and from place-to-place, population profiles can change shape dramatically.

The following observations will assist the reader in interpreting the population pyramids:

1. A narrow arm of males between 20 and 24 years of age often indicates military presence.
2. A narrowing of the pyramid above 20 years of age may signify that young adults have left home and relocated in other areas.
3. A bulge in the pyramid above 20 years of age may indicate that young adults from other places have immigrated.
4. A narrow arm of males 20 to 24 years of age across from a similar sized arm of females sometimes indicates a college or colleges in the area.
5. The base of the pyramid holds information relating to birth rates. If the base is very wide, this may indicate relatively large numbers of children had been born, and the opposite if the base is narrow.

FIGURE 2

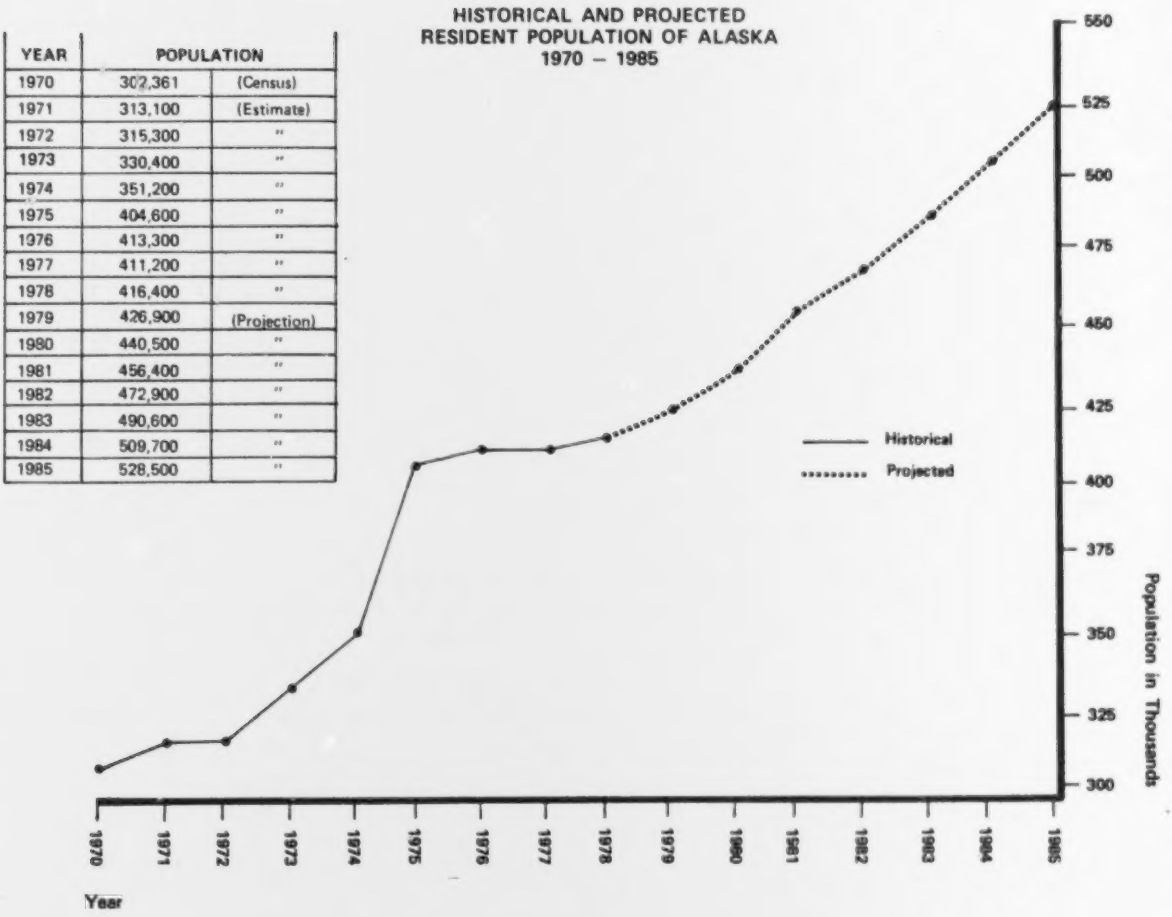

ALASKA 1890
ALASKA 1900
ALASKA 1910
ALASKA 1920
ALASKA 1929
ALASKA 1939
ALASKA 1950
ALASKA 1960
ALASKA 1970
UNITED STATES 1960
UNITED STATES 1970
Male
Female
Age
Percent

PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH: 1978–1985

Between 1970 and 1978, total employment increased by nearly 10 percent per year in Alaska. Over this same period of pipeline stimulated growth, population is estimated to have grown by slightly less than five percent per year. At present the economic growth of Alaska is primarily absorbed in taking up slack left by completion of the trans-Alaska Pipeline. Presumably, population growth fueled by economic expansion is also in a lull. Over the seven years between 1978 and 1985, a reasonable population growth rate would be four percent per year (see Figure 3). However, higher growth rates may occur if major construction projects are undertaken in the state.

FIGURE 3

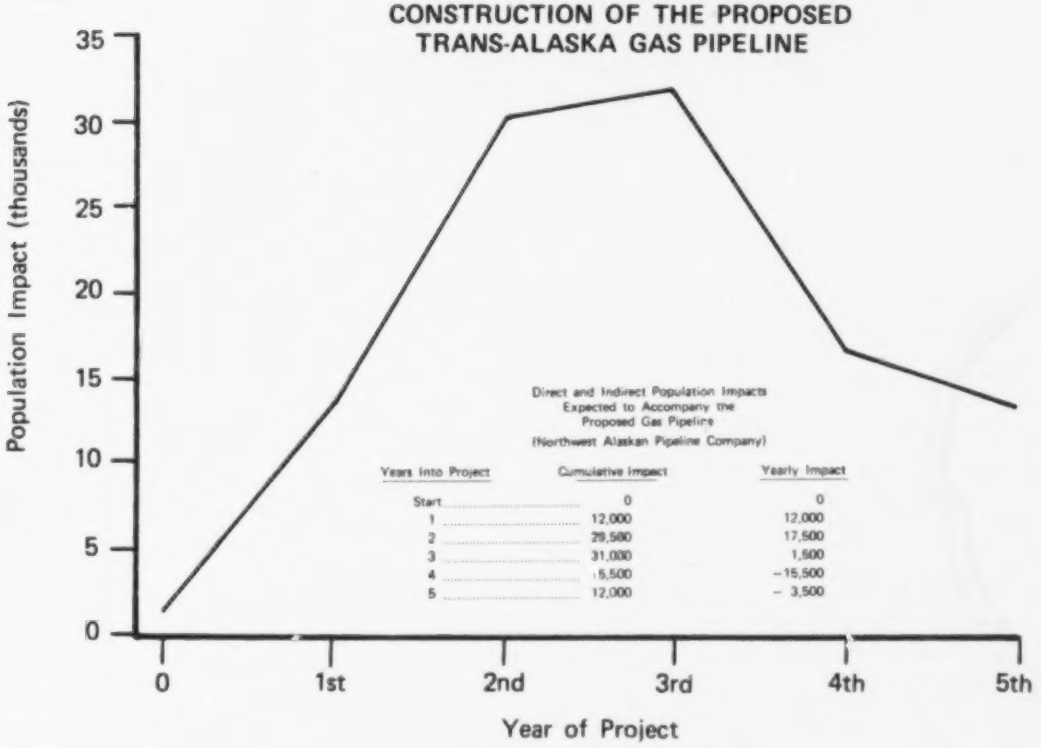
YEAR	POPULATION	
1970	302,361	(Census)
1971	313,100	(Estimate)
1972	315,300	"
1973	330,400	"
1974	351,200	"
1975	404,600	"
1976	413,300	"
1977	411,200	"
1978	416,400	"
1979	426,900	(Projection)
1980	440,500	"
1981	456,400	"
1982	472,900	"
1983	490,600	"
1984	509,700	"
1985	528,500	"



Forecasts of accelerated population growth due to construction of the proposed Northwest Alaskan gas pipeline have been estimated using the Department of Labor's econometric model. The gas pipeline faces many financial, regulatory, and right-of-way hurdles similar to those encountered by the construction of the trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline. Estimates of annual increases in the population (induced by the gas pipeline project) were assumed to peak in the third year of construction with an additional 33,400 people[1/] (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4

POPULATION INCREASE DUE TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA GAS PIPELINE



Direct and Indirect Population Impacts Expected to Accompany the Proposed Gas Pipeline (Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company)

Years Into Project	Cumulative Impact	Yearly Impact
Start	0	0
1	12,000	12,000
2	29,500	17,500
3	31,000	1,500
4	15,500	−15,500
5	12,000	− 3,500

Peak construction employment levels associated with the building of a new capital city[2/] would probably be dwarfed by employment figures when compared to the completed trans-Alaska Pipeline by a factor of 15 to 1. Although population impacts to Willow and Anchorage would be significant, these would be minimal from a statewide perspective. Impacts due to the potential capital move are forecasted to be well within the range of error associated with the base case projections. For this reason, results from the capital move simulation have not been included in this publication.

1/ Alaska Economic Outlook to 1985, Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section, Juneau, Alaska, July 1978, pp. 36.

2/ Ibid.

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

ALASKA'S SUBSTATE AREAS DEFINED

The U.S. Bureau of Census conducts a census of the United States every 10 years. Two decennial censuses (1960 and 1970) have been conducted since Alaska attained statehood in 1959. Both of these were carried out using different substate area schemes. The 1980 census will be based upon yet another set of substate areas. On the negative side, these area changes create confusion and reduce comparability of sub-state data from one census to another. On the positive side, however, these changes draw us nearer to a set of more meaningful areas which will conform more closely with political, social, and economic boundaries.

How do these three graphic area concepts of Alaska compare? The 24 election districts established in Alaska's Constitution served as county equivalents in the 1960 census. Five of these 24 election districts were later split in two, basically yielding the 29 divisions used in the census of 1970. These divisions are still in use today by federal and state government for labor force statistics and other economic data. When the 1980 census results are released, the 29 census *divisions* of 1970 will yield to 23 census *areas*. Of the 23 new census areas, eleven will cover original 1970 census division boundaries. Unlike the 1970 census divisions, certain 1980 census areas are divided into *sub-areas* (ten of the 1980 census areas are subdivided into 22 sub-areas).

The 1980 census areas were established by the co-operative efforts of the U.S. Census Bureau and the Alaska Census Committee.3/ Census area boundaries were delineated on the basis of the following major points:

- Organized boroughs treated as county equivalents.
- Boundaries in the unorganized areas of the state correspond to Native Corporation boundaries and/or Rural Education Attendance Areas.
- Selected census divisions of small geographic areas were combined to form larger census areas in order to create more meaningful statistical units.
- Previous census divisions maintained where possible.
- Sub-areas established for statistical continuity.

3/ The 1980 Census Committee was organized in 1977 with Lee McAnerny, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs as chairperson and included members of various interested state agencies in liaison with the Census Bureau in suggesting input, resolving problems and assisting in operations related to the 1980 census of Alaska.

FIGURE 5

CENSUS DIVISIONS AND ELECTION DISTRICTS*

FIPS Code	Census Division	Original Election District	Old Manual Code
010	Aleutian Islands Division	Aleutian Islands	14
020	Anchorage Division	Anchorage	10
030	Angoon Division	(Part of) Sitka 1/	04
040	Barrow–North Slope Division	Barrow 2/	24
050	Bethel Division	Bethel	16
060	Bristol Bay Borough Division	(Part of) Bristol Bay 3/	15
070	Bristol Bay Division	(Part of) Bristol Bay 3/	15
080	Cordova–McCarthy Division	Cordova–McCarthy	07
090	Fairbanks Division	(Part of) Fairbanks 4/	19
100	Haines Division	(Part of) Lynn Canal–Icy Straits 5/	06
110	Juneau Division	Juneau	05
120	Kenai–Cook Inlet Division	Kenai–Cook Inlet	12
130	Ketchikan Division	(Part of) Ketchikan 6/	02
140	Kobuk Division	Kobuk 2/	25
150	Kodiak Division	Kodiak	13
160	Kuskokwim Division	Kuskokwim	17
170	Matanuska–Susitna Division	Palmer–Wasilla–Talkeetna	09
180	Nome Division	Nome	26
190	Outer Ketchikan Division	(Part of) Ketchikan 6/	02
200	Prince of Wales Division	Prince of Wales	01
210	Seward Division	Seward	11
220	Sitka Division	(Part of) Sitka 1/	04
230	Skagway–Yakutat Division	(Part of) Lynn Canal–Icy Straits 5/	06
240	Southeast Fairbanks Division	(Part of) Fairbanks 4/	19
250	Upper Yukon Division	Upper Yukon 2/	21
260	Valdez–Chitina–Whittier Division	Valdez–Chitina–Whittier	08
270	Wade Hampton Division	Wade Hampton	18
280	Wrangell–Petersburg Division	Wrangell–Petersburg	03
290	Yukon–Koyukuk Division	Yukon–Koyukuk	20

1/ Sitka Census Division + Angoon Census Division = Sitka Election District.

2/ Barrow–North Slope Census Division = Barrow Election District + northern portion of Upper Yukon Election District and northwestern tip of Kobuk Election District.

3/ Bristol Bay Census Division + Bristol Bay Borough Census Division = Bristol Bay Election District.

4/ Fairbanks Census Division + Southeast Fairbanks Census Division = Fairbanks Election District.

5/ Haines Census Division + Skagway–Yakutat Census Division = Lynn Canal–Icy Straits Election District.

6/ Ketchikan Census Division + Outer Ketchikan Census Division = Ketchikan Election District.

*/ Dianne Pressenda, Geographic Area Classification Manual, (Alaska Department of Labor: Research and Analysis Section, 1975), pp. ii.

FIGURE 6

1970 CENSUS DIVISIONS
(Revised 1975)
Barrow–North Slope
Upper Yukon
Kobuk
Nome
Yukon–Koyukuk
Fairbanks
Southeast Fairbanks
Valdez Chitina Whittier
Wade Hampton
Kuskokwim
Matanuska–Susitna
Corclova–McCarthy
Haines
Juneau
Angoon
Bethel
Kenai–Cook Inlet
Bristol Bay
Anchorage
Skagway–Yakutat
Sitka
Seward
Wrangell–Petersburg
Bristol Bay Borough
Prince of Wales
Ketchikan
Kodiak
Outer Ketchikan
Aleutian Islands (part)
Aleutian Islands (part)

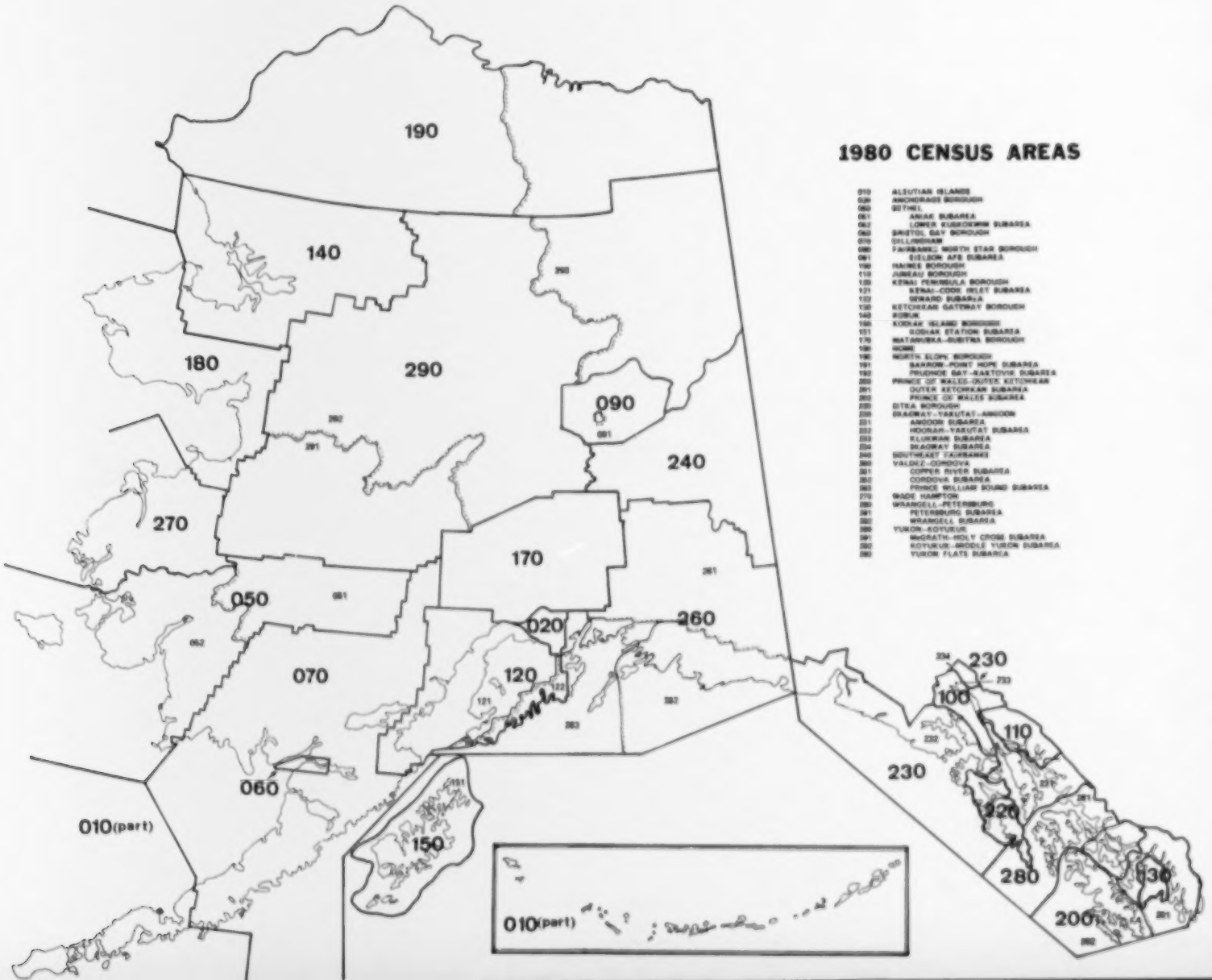
FIGURE 7

THE 1980 CENSUS AREAS AND 1970 CENSUS DIVISIONS

1980 Census Area	Component 1970 Census Divisions
010 Aleutian Islands Area	[01] Aleutian Islands Division (excludes area N.E. of Port Moller).
020 Anchorage Borough	[02] Anchorage Census Division (N.C.)*.
	[03] Angoon Census Division (added to Skagway–Yakutat–Angoon Area 230).
	[04] Barrow–North Slope Census Division (renamed North Slope Borough 185).
050 Bethel Area	[05] Bethel Census Division (includes southern half of [16] Kuskokwim Division).
060 Bristol Bay Borough	[06] Bristol Bay Borough Census Division (N.C.).
070 Dillingham Area	[07] Bristol Bay Census Division (includes Port Moller area from Aleutian Islands Census Division).
	[08] Cordova–McCarthy Census Division (added to Valdez–Cordova Area 260).
090 Fairbanks North Star Borough	[09] Fairbanks Census Division (N.C.).
100 Haines Borough	[10] Haines Census Division (excludes Klukwan).
110 Juneau Borough	[11] Juneau Census Division (N.C.).
120 Kenai Peninsula Borough	[12] Kenai–Cook Inlet Census Division + [21] Seward Census Division.
130 Ketchikan Gateway Borough	[13] Ketchikan Census Division (N.C.).
140 Kobuk Area	[14] Kobuk Census Division (N.C.).
150 Kodiak Island Borough	[15] Kodiak Census Division (N.C.).
	[16] Kuskokwim Census Division (divided between the Bethel Area 050 and the Yukon–Koyukuk Area 290).
170 Matanuska–Susitna Borough	[17] Matanuska–Susitna Census Division (N.C.).
180 Nome Area	[18] Nome Census Division (N.C.).
185 North Slope Borough	[04] Barrow–North Slope Census Division (N.C.).
	[19] Outer Ketchikan Census Division (added to Prince of Wales–Outer Ketchikan Area 200).
200 Prince of Wales–Outer Ketchikan Area	[20] Prince of Wales Census Division + [19] Outer Ketchikan Census Division.
	[21] Seward Census Division (added to Kenai Peninsula Borough 120).
220 Sitka Borough	[22] Sitka Census Division (excludes Port Alexander).
230 Skagway–Yakutat–Angoon Area	[23] Skagway–Yakutat Census Division + [3] Angoon Census Division + Klukwan.
240 Southeast Fairbanks Area	[24] Southeast Fairbanks Census Division (includes Eagle Area, excludes southern portion around Nebesna).
	[25] Upper Yukon Census Division (added to Yukon–Koyukuk Area 290).
260 Valdez–Cordova Area	[26] Valdez–Chitina–Whittier Census Division + [8] Cordova–McCarthy Census Division + Nabesna Area.
270 Wade Hampton Area	[27] Wade Hampton Census Division (N.C.).
280 Wrangell–Petersburg Area	[28] Wrangell–Petersburg Census Division (includes Port Alexander).
290 Yukon–Koyukuk Area	[29] Yukon Koyukuk Census Division + [25] Upper Yukon Census Division (less Eagle area) + Northern half of [16] Kuskokwim Census Division.

(N.C.) = No change

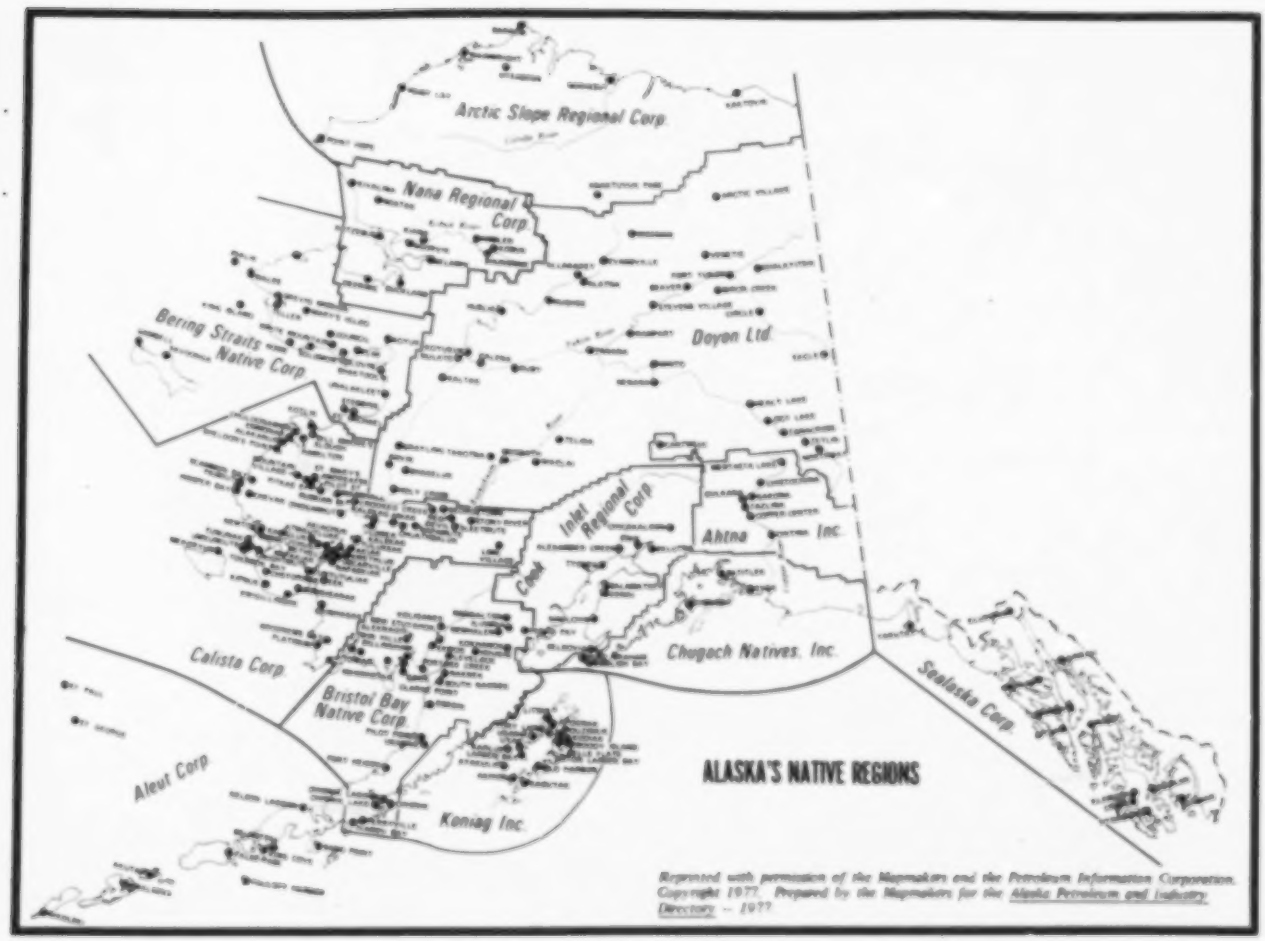
FIGURE 8


1980 CENSUS AREAS
190
140
180
290
090
240
270
170
050
020
260
070
120
100
230
110
060
010(part)
150
220
280
130
200
010(part)

ALASKA'S NATIVE REGIONS

The Alaska Native Regions Map (Figure 9) shows the boundaries of all native regional corporations except the thirteenth corporation which was organized for the benefit of Alaska Natives no longer living in Alaska. According to Wallace Olsen, professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska, the present configuration of boundaries for the 12 in-state corporations was established by overlaying linguistic and cultural maps; and, to a lesser extent, by considering geographic features of Alaska.

FIGURE 9



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CURRENT POPULATION ESTIMATES

INTRODUCTION

The Current Population Estimates section deals with the number of people in various locations around the state. Included in this section are 1978 population estimates for the state, census divisions, and municipalities of Alaska. The section has four parts. The first part presents problems associated with defining 'Alaska resident' and discusses how various definitions of 'resident' may have affected estimates of Alaska population levels – particularly during the turbulent pipeline years. The second portion compares historical population growth rates of Alaska to comparable rates nationwide to see whether estimated current growth rates make sense from an historical perspective. The third part of this section is an analysis of estimated population growth registered by individual census divisions since the 1970 census. Rapid growth appears to be linked to commercial petroleum development, and moderate growth seems to be associated with areas which are reliant upon renewable resource industries. In the final portion, various estimates for Alaska's 151 municipalities are presented and discussed, with special emphasis placed upon a comparison between the state and the federal revenue sharing estimates.

RESIDENTS OF ALASKA

Confusion as to the definition of 'Alaska resident' often muddies discussions concerning past and future changes of the population size. The following quotation describes two alternative definitions in use throughout the world:

> "In general, however, modern censuses are designed to include the 'total population' of an area. This concept is not so simple as it may first appear. *There are two ideal types of total population counts* (emphasis added), *the de facto and de jure.* The former comprises all the people in a given area at a given time. The latter is more ambiguous. It comprises all the people who belong to a given area at a given time by virtue of legal residence, usual residence, or some similar criterion".4/

Migration is a significant demographic factor in Alaska not only because the number of migrants is unusually large, but also because the population base is unusually small. Obviously the migration of 100 persons would have more impact to a small state than to a large state. If the entire population of Alaska were to be added to the population of the most populous state (California), the larger state's population would rise less than 2 percent. Where migration is a significant factor, measurements of population levels and growth depend, to some extent, upon the conventions which define residency.

'Usual Residence' is the concept used in the U.S. to define the population of an area. 'Usual residence' is ordinarily the place a persons regards as his home. As a rule it will be the place where he usually sleeps5/ This simple convention, however, must be qualified in order to avoid double counting. High school students living at school, for instance,

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4/ U.S. Bureau of the Census, The Methods and Materials of Demography, Shyrock, Siegel, and Associates, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1975 pp. 92.

5/ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Enumerators Reference Manual: 1960 Census of Population and Housing, F-210, 1959, pp. 5-7.

are counted at the home of their parents; whereas college students are counted where they live. Many persons who consider themselves Alaskans are "persons with more than one residence"; some are "persons with no residence"; and still others are "persons who work and live away from their homes and families". Cities in Alaska which provide hospital facilities and other services to seasonal workers tend to include these seasonal workers for revenue sharing purposes; however, the Census Bureau specifies these persons be counted where they spend most of the year.

> "Of course, there have long been classes of workers who changed their residence seasonally with the jobs – lumbermen, fishermen, agricultural workers, canners, etc. In the cases that involve an annual cycle, the ordinary rule is to choose the residence where the person lives the greatest part of the year – although there is always the temptation to play safe and count him where you find him".6/

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR POPULATION ESTIMATES

The problem of estimating population in Alaska has been particularly complicated by social and economic changes associated with construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Migration associated with construction and operation activities added a new dimension to the difficulties of defining "Alaska Resident". Interstate seasonal movements of many construction workers, fishermen, and loggers also tend to blurr the distinction between those who are residents and those who are not.

During the ten year span between censuses, changes in the population level are tracked by monitoring the behavior of certain indicator data series. Department of Labor population estimates for Alaska did not rise as rapidly as suggested by the climbing employment data during build-up of the pipeline work force. Employment growth was greater than population growth, it was urged, because many of those holding pipeline induced jobs were *non-residents*. This conservative approach in Labor Department population estimates registered basic changes in the population of permanent residents but ignored waves of pipeline boomers.

The 1978 Department of Labor resident population estimate shows a slight (1.25 percent) growth over the 1977 figure. Short term migrants drawn by the pipeline boom have been leaving Alaska. This exodus will not show up as a decline in the resident population figure though because many of these temporary workers were not added to the resident estimate as they arrived. The military population of Alaska has also been in gradual decline. Expansion due to the continuing infusion of petroleum dollars into the state's economy and the assimilation of a number of "temporary" inmigrants contributed to the slight overall growth registered.

6/ U.S. Bureau of the Census, The Methods and Materials of Demography, Shyrock, Siegel, and Associates, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1975, pp. 96.

Alaska by 1978 was well into establishing a new population equilibrium. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline had begun commercial operation on July 10, 1977. Remaining pipeline construction workers were re-classified as maintenance and operations workers in the transportation industry. Rather than basing the 1978 population estimates solely upon changes from the 1977 estimates (which were produced during a turbulent boom period), the net changes occurring over the entire interval since the 1970 census were also examined. The net changes observed between 1970 and 1978 were viewed as permanent growth remaining after the boom.

FIGURE 10

TOTAL RESIDENT POPULATION OF ALASKA CENSUS DIVISIONS, JULY 1, 1978 - Alaska Department of Labor

CENSUS DIVISION	1978 ESTIMATE	1970 CENSUS	NET CHANGE 1970-1978 NUMBER	NET CHANGE 1970-1978 PERCENT	COMPONENTS OF CHANGE 1970-1978 BIRTHS	DEATHS	NET CIVILIAN MIGRATION
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS	8000	8057	-57	-1	1106	176	1047
ANCHORAGE	185500	126333	59167	47	28054	4193	37274
ANGOON	600	503	97	19	96	54	51
BARROW-NORTH SLOPE	8300	3451	4849	141	566	164	4536
BETHEL	10000	7767	2233	29	1804	362	871
BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH	1400	1147	253	22	121	39	-139
BRISTOL BAY	3900	3485	415	12	672	196	378
CORDOVA-MCCARTHY	2400	1857	543	29	281	129	377
FAIRBANKS	55500	45864	9636	21	10356	1467	4404
HAINES	1500	1504	-4	0	240	95	-119
JUNEAU	19500	13556	5944	44	2332	686	4219
KENAI-COOK INLET	22300	14250	8050	56	2765	542	6259
KETCHIKAN	12600	10041	2559	25	1796	609	1501
KOBUK	5300	4048	1252	31	1045	227	523
KODIAK	9600	9409	191	2	1909	391	-733
KUSKOKWIM	2700	2306	394	17	427	155	322
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA	15400	6509	8891	137	1553	462	7648
NOME	7200	5749	1451	25	1312	435	683
OUTER KETCHIKAN	2000	1676	324	19	327	102	99
PRINCE OF WALES	2600	2106	494	23	286	107	315
SEWARD	3100	2336	764	33	413	204	646
SITKA	7200	6109	1091	18	1057	293	281
SKAGWAY-YAKUTAT	2800	2157	643	30	406	145	355
SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS	5300	4179	1121	27	908	124	-460
UPPER YUKON	1200	1282	-82	-6	287	104	-189
VALDEZ-CHITINA-WHITTIER	5000	3098	1902	61	725	187	1317
WADE HAMPTON	4400	3917	483	12	996	177	-182
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG	5600	4913	687	14	947	333	110
YUKON-KOYUKUK	5500	4752	748	16	790	260	410
TOTAL	416400	302361	114039		63577	12418	71805

* NOTE: THE 1978 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY AREA WAS DEVELOPED USING A NEW METHODOLOGY. FOR THIS REASON, THE 1978 LEVELS ARE NOT COMPARABLE TO PRIOR YEARS ESTIMATES AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR TREND ANALYSIS.

STATEWIDE POPULATION GROWTH

The population of the state of Alaska is estimated to have grown 37 percent in the eight years since 1970. Six census Divisions (comprising roughly 61 percent of the Alaska population) had growth rates exceeding the statewide average, while the remaining 23 divisions (39 percent of total population) had lesser growth rates.

The Alaska growth rate of 37 percent[7/] compared to the U.S. growth rate of 7 percent shows Alaska growing *five times the U.S. rate* between 1970 and 1978. It is not unusual for Alaska population growth to be substantially higher than that of the U.S. although with an estimated 0.2 percent of the total 1978 U.S. population, the Alaska population is still the smallest in the nation (see Appendix D pp. 49). Between the 1960 and 1970 censuses, the Alaska growth rate was some 2½ times greater than the U.S. rate.[8/] From 1950 to 1960, the Alaska rate of population increase exceeded the U.S. rate by over 4 times; and from 1940 to 1950 the Alaska rate of growth was also above 5 times higher than U.S. growth. Alaska's small population, vast natural wealth, and great geographic area can combine to produce erratic population growth rates several times greater than those of the U.S.

CENSUS DIVISION GROWTH

The growth achieved by Alaska Census Divisions between 1970 and 1978 may be grouped 'high growth', 'moderate growth', and 'low growth'. Surprising similarities emerge when areas with corresponding growth rates are compared. Since the highest and lowest growth rates are separated by 147 percentage points, the difference between growth rates may be significant indeed.

THE EXTREMES

The growth registered during the eight year period following the 1970 census varies widely among census divisions. The most rapidly growing division, Barrow–North Slope – site of Prudhoe Bay oil fields, increased by a phenomenal 141 percent over the eight year interval. The slowest growing census division, Upper Yukon, is estimated to have *declined* by 6 percent since the 1970 census.

The extreme difference in growth rates of Barrow–North Slope and Upper Yukon Divisions require qualification. A large amount of land area was added to the new Barrow–North Slope Division on September 15, 1973[9/] (previously the Barrow Division). This boundary change adds to the growth statistic slightly. Therefore the 1970 population of the smaller Barrow Division is not directly comparable to the 1978 population of the larger Barrow–North Slope census division. When the area of fastest growing Barrow–North Slope was increased (due to boundary changes); the area of slowest growing Upper Yukon was significantly reduced. This could explain part of the population decline of the Upper Yukon Division.

7/ The U.S. Bureau of the Census 1978 estimate for Alaska is 403,000 (33% growth 1970–1978).

8/ U.S. Bureau of the Census Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1978 (99th edition), Washington, D.C., 1978. pp. 12.

9/ The census division boundaries were revised in recognition of the incorporation of the North Slope Borough, July 1, 1972.

The presence of the Prudhoe Bay industrial area and the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline have fueled the phenomenal growth of this regional center. However the accuracy of this estimate has been called into question over disagreement concerning the 'residency' of some 3,000 petroleum workers in the Prudhoe Bay industrial area who work on a week on, week off' basis. For purposes of the 1978 Department of Labor population estimates, these workers were assumed to be living without dependents in the Barrow–North Slope census division. This assumption is based upon similar treatment of these workers in the North Slope Borough 1978 population estimate. Recent information suggests, however, that these workers should have been counted as residents of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and even as residents of other states. Without inclusion of these 3,000 workers, the growth of the Barrow–North Slope Division would have been 54 percent, making it the fifth fastest growing division rather than the first. The combination of a boundary change, petroleum development, and the questionable counting of rotating oil workers as North Slope residents have all contributed to the elevated growth rate of the Barrow–North Slope Division.

High Growth Areas

The seven most rapidly growing census divisions between 1970 and 1978 all receive direct or indirect stimulus from development of Alaska's petroleum resource. The top growing Barrow–North Slope Division is origin of all oil now flowing through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The second most rapidly increasing census division, Matanuska–Susitna, has picked up a great deal of overflow growth from the expanding Anchorage Division. There is evidence, however, that the forces which fueled the spectacular 137 percent growth of Matanuska–Susitna are now weakening. As terminus of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, the Valdez–Chitina–Whittier Division ranks third in growth between 1970 and 1978. Construction of the pipeline, tank farm, and Port of Valdez have contributed heavily to the economy of this area and are largely responsible for the 61 percent growth experienced between 1970 and 1978. Kenai–Cook Inlet and Seward are adjacent census divisions with similar oil spurred growth rates. Though Anchorage produces no oil, benefits of oil development are derived through the Anchorage role in providing industrial support to petroleum activities elsewhere. Many residents of the Kenai–Cook Inlet census division are involved with operation of oil wells in Cook Inlet, refinement of oil, and the manufacture of urea fertilizer from natural gas. Kenai–Cook Inlet has grown an estimated 56 percent since 1970. Juneau, Alaska's capital, ranks sixth among high growth areas of Alaska. Far removed from the producing oil fields, Juneau and other census divisions benefit in several ways from petroleum and other activity within the state of Alaska. Alaska oil development has played a key role in bringing about the abnormally high growth rates of the top seven high growth areas between 1970 and 1978. Unless a gas pipeline is constructed, the high growth of oil producing regions will probably moderate.

Medium Growth Areas

Eighteen of the 29 Alaska census divisions grew more rapidly than the U.S. population (7 percent) but slower than the statewide figure (37 percent) during the period 1970–1978 (see Figure 11). Certain patterns are evident in the growth of these divisions. First, *oil is not extracted or refined commercially* in any of these medium growth areas. The renewable resource industries, fishing and forestry, are prevalent in the middle growth divisions. These are seasonal industries and the populations which rely upon them are sensitive to government regulation of allowable harvest as well as seasonal and cyclical variations. The success of the fishing industry varies from year to year and from month

to month depending upon the size and location of harvestable fish stocks. In areas where fishing is the predominant industry, growth from year to year may be sporatic.

The logging and lumber industries are predominant among causes of growth in four of the medium growth census divisions. Since loggers often live in camps which move from one work site to another, populations of loggers may be stable in number from year to year but at the same time might not remain in a given location from year to year. Logging activity is subject to peculiarities of forest practices and environmental restrictions.

Much employment and population growth in the moderate growth areas seems to be fueled by exploitation of renewable resources. Although access to supplies of raw materials is subject to some uncertainty, and transportation costs and demand for output may fluctuate, these areas will probably sustain their current rate of growth.

FIGURE 11

ALASKA CENSUS DIVISIONS RANKED BY POPULATION GROWTH 1970–1978

Rank by Growth	Percent Growth 1970–1978	1978 Population*	Census Division (Or Area)
1	141%	8,300	BARROW–NORTH SLOPE
2	137%	15,400	MATANUSKA–SUSITNA
3	61%	5,000	VALDEZ–CHITINA–WHITTIER
4	56%	22,300	KENAI–COOK INLET
5	47%	185,500	ANCHORAGE
6	44%	19,500	JUNEAU
AK.	37%	416,400	(STATE OF ALASKA)
7	33%	3,100	SEWARD
8	31%	5,300	KOBUK
9	30%	2,800	SKAGWAY–YAKUTAT
10	29%	10,000	BETHEL
11	29%	2,400	CORDOVA–McCARTHY
12	27%	5,300	SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS
13	25%	12,600	KETCHIKAN
14	25%	7,200	NOME
15	23%	2,600	PRINCE OF WALES
16	22%	1,400	BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH
17	21%	55,500	FAIRBANKS
18	19%	2,000	OUTER KETCHIKAN
19	19%	600	ANGOON
20	18%	7,200	SITKA
21	17%	2,700	KUSKOKWIM
22	16%	5,500	YUKON–KOYUKUK
23	14%	5,600	WRANGELL–PETERSBURG
24	12%	3,900	BRISTOL BAY
25	12%	4,400	WADE HAMPTON
U.S.	7%	218,058,000	(UNITED STATES**)
26	2%	9,600	KODIAK
27	0%	1,500	HAINES
28	–1%	8,000	ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
29	–6%	1,200	UPPER YUKON

* Alaska Department of Labor Population Estimates

** Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce

Low Growth Areas

Four of Alaska's 29 census divisions expanded at a rate less than the U.S. average between 1970 and 1978. Loss of military personnel (which comprised a substantial proportion of the 1970 population) is the primary cause of decline in the Kodiak Division and the

Aleutian Islands Division. In Haines, inadequate stumpage sales have prevented operation of a saw mill which was a prime employer in that area. The resultant loss of jobs had depressed the economic and the population growth of Haines. As previously mentioned, the Upper Yukon Division lost area to the Barrow–North Slope Division in 1973. The fact that a portion of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was constructed through Upper Yukon Division does not seem to have spurred much growth in this census division which dropped 6 percent over eight years. This is due to the transitory nature of the construction jobs. In three of four low growth areas, military and economic decline have been significant factors in the loss of population.

CURRENT ESTIMATES FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Population estimates for the 151[10/] Alaska Municipalities are maintained by three agencies. Federal Revenue sharing population estimates are prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. State Revenue Sharing estimates are based upon the 1970 census. A relatively convenient procedure exists whereby individual municipalities may challenge their current state Revenue Sharing population estimate by demonstrating to the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs that the size of their population is understated. The state estimates tend to be higher than the federal estimates for three reasons: 1) Increases to the federal estimates are recognized by Community and Regional Affairs, however state increases are not recognized by the Census Bureau; 2) the cost and complication of communication with Washington, D.C. plus the dearth of municipality generated statistics makes it difficult to challenge a federal estimate; and 3) the State Revenue Sharing Program lacks a mechanism for reducing an estimate during a population decline (as has happened in Fairbanks since the pipeline boom).

The third agency which maintains population statistics by municipality is the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. An offshoot of the biennial 'Village Nurse Census', a population count is made as a part of the general set of information kept on each village which the nurses visit on their tour.

A comparison of population estimates is provided in Appendix B page 40 . This population data is organized alphabetically by municipality within census divisions. Figures included are from (1) the 1970 census figures,(2) 1975 and 1976 Bureau of Census estimates,(3) 1977–78 Village Nurse Census, and(4) the July 1, 1978 State Revenue Sharing estimates. Also included (for census divisions only) are the 1978 Alaska Department of Labor estimates and the 1978 Bureau of the Census revised estimates.

10/ Includes Metlakatla – incorporated under Federal Law in 1944.

AGE/SEX BY AREA: 1970

CENSUS DIVISION POPULATION PROFILES

In the historical section of this publication, changes of the Alaska age/sex profile were traced through time. In this section, profiles of the 29 Alaska Census Divisions are displayed and four exceptional profiles are discussed to indicate how these profiles may be interpreted.[11/]

Historical Alaska population pyramids relate population age-sex characteristics to different dates in time, and census division pyramids bear information concerning the distinctive features of the various census divisions in Alaska.

1. The most notable feature of the 1970 *Aleutian Islands* profile is roughly 30 percent of the total population was comprised of males between the ages of 20 and 24 years. A high percentage of males in this age group usually indicates a significant *military population.*

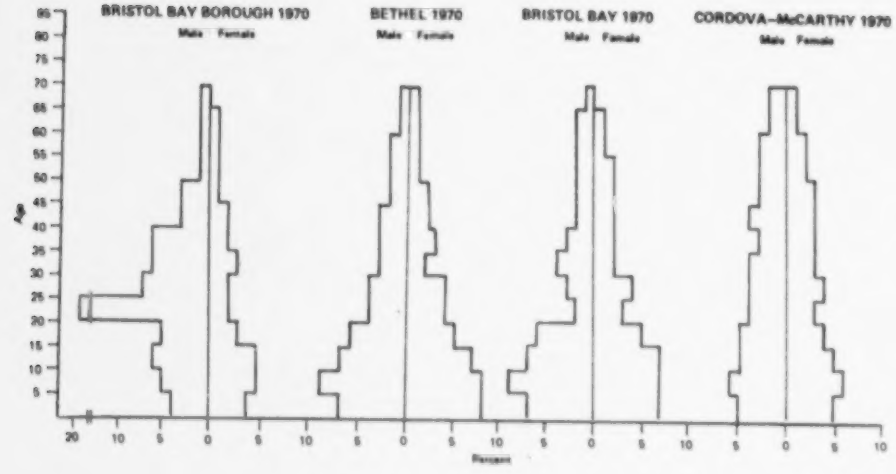
2. A population drop-off above 20 years of age is pronounced in the *Angoon* profile. A drop-off such as this may often be attributed to *out-migration of young adults* from rural areas. The narrow base of the Angoon profile is characteristic of the *passing influence of the Post World War II baby boom.*

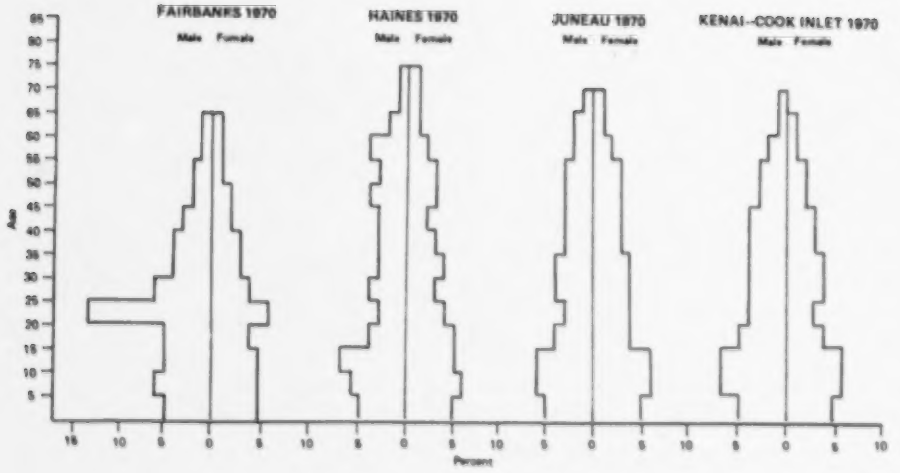
3. In the *Fairbanks* pyramid, two features overlap in the 20–24 age bracket. A population of *college students* elevates the levels of both males and females in the 20–24 year age bracket. However, *military personnel* stationed in Fairbanks mask the presence of male college students in Fairbanks.

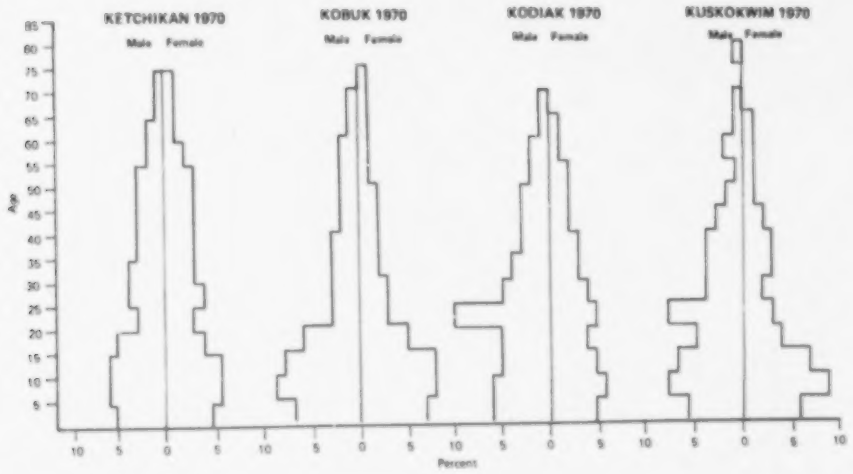
4. Three major influences may be responsible for the peculiar shape of the Matanuska–Susitna profile of 1970: a) *the end of the Post World War II baby boom* may have reduced the number of children born in Matanuska–Susitna; b) the relatively low population of the 20-30 year cohort may reflect *out-migration of young adults* from a community which was primarily of a rural and agricultural orientation; and c) the relatively high proportion of persons 35 to 59 years of age may reflect an increasing role of the Matanuska–Susitna valley as the bedroom community of Alaska's most populous city, Anchorage.

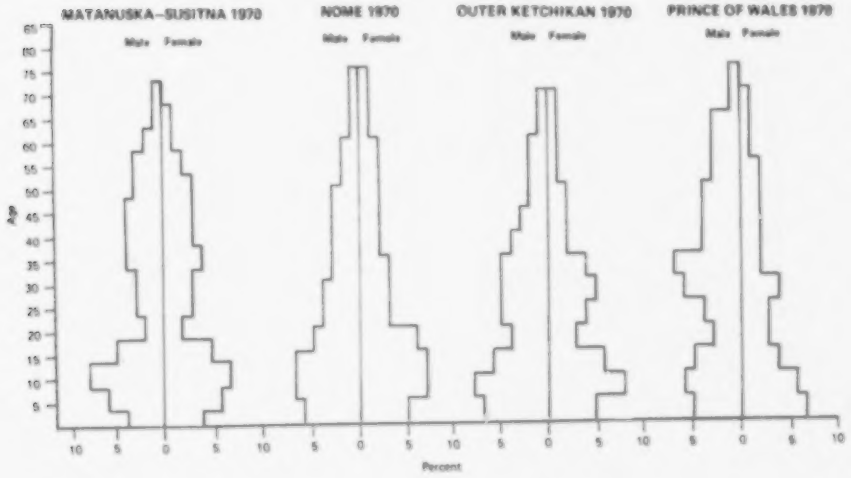
11/ The layout of age/sex profiles were described in the historical section of this publication (see Population Pyramids: How to Read Them pp. 9).

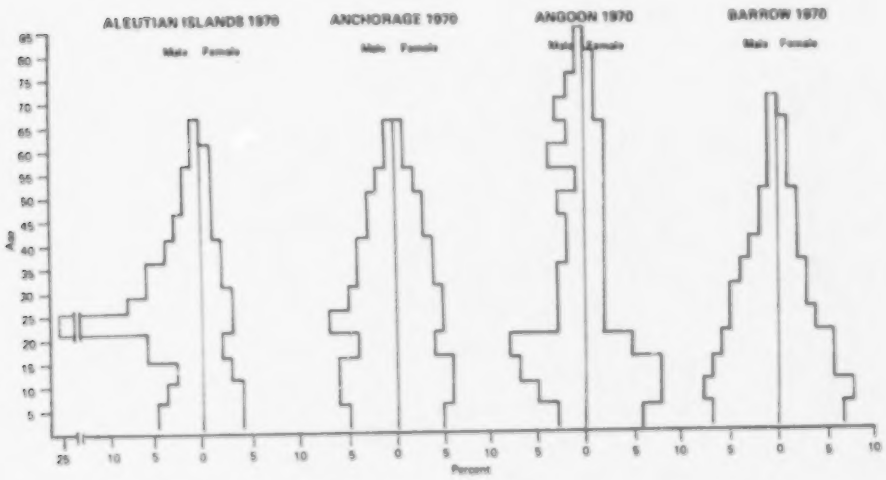
FIGURE 12

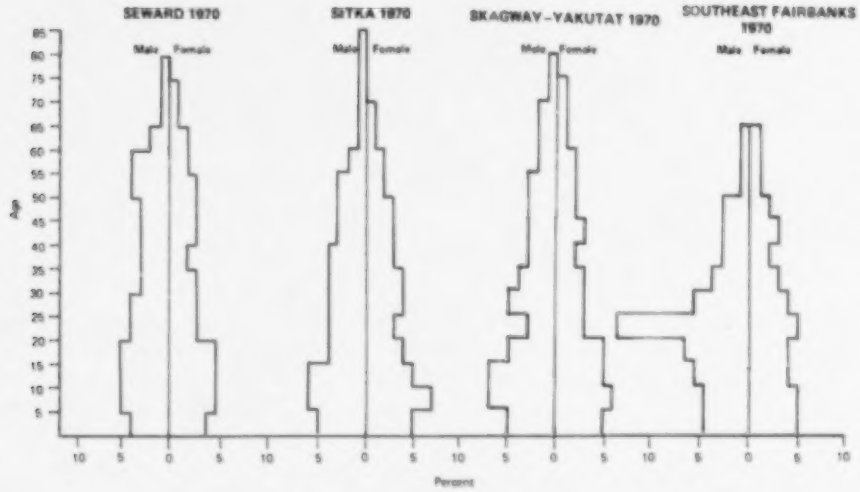

BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH 1970
BETHEL 1970
BRISTOL BAY 1970
CORDOVA–McCARTHY 1970
Male Female
Age
Percent

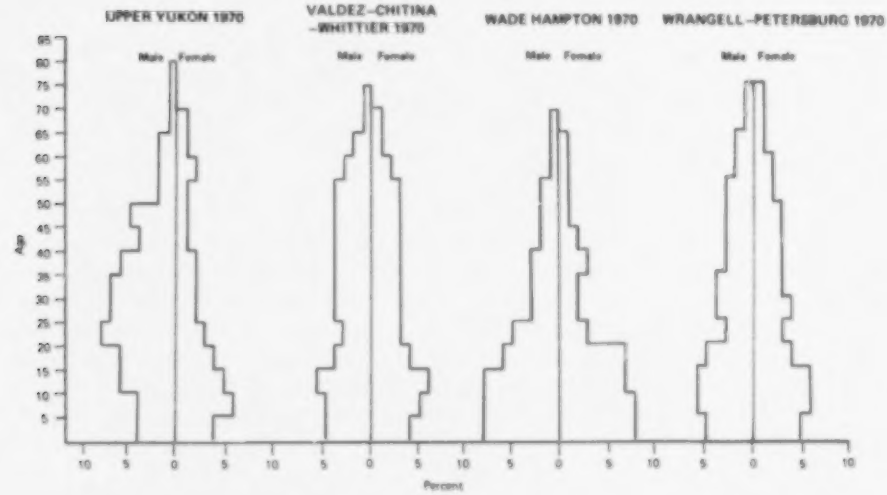

FAIRBANKS 1970
HAINES 1970
JUNEAU 1970
KENAI–COOK INLET 1970
Male Female
Age
Percent

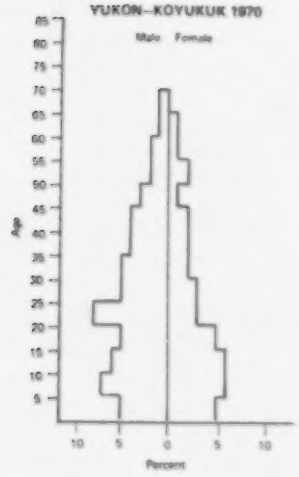

KETCHIKAN 1970
KOBUK 1970
KODIAK 1970
KUSKOKWIM 1970
Male Female
Age
Percent


MATANUSKA-SUSITNA 1970
NOME 1970
OUTER KETCHIKAN 1970
PRINCE OF WALES 1970
Male Female
Age
Percent


ALEUTIAN ISLANDS 1970
ANCHORAGE 1970
ANGOON 1970
BARROW 1970
Male Female
Age
Percent


SEWARD 1970
SITKA 1970
SKAGWAY-YAKUTAT 1970
SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS 1970
Male Female
Age
Percent


UPPER YUKON 1970
VALDEZ-CHITINA -WHITTIER 1970
WADE HAMPTON 1970
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG 1970
Male Female
Age
Percent


YUKON-KOYUKUK 1970
Male Female
Age
Percent

SINGLE YEARS OF AGE BY RACE AND SEX

For those wishing a more detailed view of the age by race-sex structures of the 1970 Alaska population, a table from the Census Publication General Population Characteristics of Alaska has been reprinted in the appendix of this publication. This table delineates the number of persons in one year age groups (cohorts) by sex within the racial groupings white, black, and other (see Appendix C, page 48).

MIGRATION

In previous sections, changes in Alaska's population size, racial composition, and age/sex profile are discussed briefly. When the size or racial composition of a population changes, these changes may be traced to births, deaths, or migration (in the case of an age/sex profile, aging is a key factor). The last factor, migration, is the subject of the present section.

Responses from the 1970 census question,[12/] "Where was this person five years ago?" reveals the significance of migration in Alaska. *Net* migration (persons entering minus persons leaving) comprised nearly one half of the population growth occurring between 1965 and 1970. However, that is only the tip of the iceberg. Approximately 120,000 individuals moved to Alaska between the years 1965 and 1970; yet, almost 100,000 Alaskans left the state over that same period. Thus for every six individuals who moved to Alaska, five individuals left the state.

Nearly 40 percent of the 1970 residents of Alaska had been living outside the state 5 years previous. Since Alaska's population is estimated to be the smallest in the union, numerical changes which might go un-noticed in larger states may be striking statistics in the 49th state. Historically, migration has served as principal avenue of population change in Alaska. It has been pointed out previously that significant changes in the balance (or imbalance) between the number of males and females are usually caused by migration in Alaska. Large fluctuations in the racial composition of Alaska are principally fueled by migration, and much of the distortion of Alaska's age profile is explained by migration.

The characteristics of migrants to and from Alaska are influenced by the characteristics of the Alaska population and by population characteristics of states from which most of the migrants originate. Between 1965 and 1970, more males (58 percent) migrated to Alaska than females (42 percent). Taking outmigration into consideration, males claimed an even greater share of growth due to net migration (68 percent). Figure 13 displays the characteristics of Alaska inmigrants and *net* migrants at the 1970 census. In the lower portion of this table, it is shown that 84 percent of Alaska growth due to migration is concentrated in the 20–24 age bracket, and that a *net loss* of 12 percent occurred in the 45–64 age group.

12/ "Where was this person five years ago?" asked of a 15 percent sample of 1970 census respondents.

FIGURE 13

GROSS MIGRATION BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: ALASKA* 1965–1970**

Characteristics	Group	Percent of In Migrants	Percent of Net Migration
SEX			
	MALE	58%	68%
	FEMALE	42%	32%
	TOTAL	100%	100%
RACE			
	WHITE	92%	97%
	BLACK	4%	3%
	TOTAL	96%	100%
AGE			
	UNDER 15 YEARS	24%	10%
	15–19 YEARS	8%	5%
	20–24 YEARS	22%	84%
	25–29 YEARS	15%	5%
	30–44 YEARS	23%	16%
	45–64 YEARS	7%	–12%
	65 YEARS AND OVER	1%	– 8%
	TOTAL	100%	100%

* 'Other' not included.

** Based upon data from: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports Series P25, No. 70, "Gross Migration by County: 1965 to 1970" pp9, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1977.

Alaska population growth throughout the 1960's was moderate when compared to the oil spurred growth of the 1970's. It is likely that in-, out-, and net-migration rates from the 1970 census will pale by comparison with the results of the upcoming 1980 census.

RACE

Racial data for Alaska and other states is usually published by the groups 'white', 'black', and 'other'. According to 1970 census data, blacks comprised roughly 3 percent of the Alaska population and Alaska Natives roughly 17 percent. Figure 14, "Race of the Population by Census Division – 1970," displays the 1970 population of the largest racial groups in Alaska. Alaska Natives are further subdivided into Eskimo, American Indian, and Aleut. Since Alaska Natives are by far the largest minority group in Alaska, they are the primary subject of this section.

Alaska Natives comprised about 50 percent of the population in 1900 (approximately 33,000 Natives). By 1970 the Native population had grown 53 percent to 50,700 – an increase of 0.8 percent per year. The general population, however, had grown

approximiately 370 percent over the 70 year period, amounting to more than 5 percent per year. The general population has been growing 5 times faster than the native population with the result that the Native proportion of the Alaska population had declined to 17 percent by 1970.

Twenty-two separate and distinct languages are in use among Alaska Natives today.[13/] In Alaska, Eskimos have historically inhabited northern coastal regions; with Indians most often living in the interior and the southeast; and Aleuts residing in the Aleutian Islands and on Kodiak[14/] – although many members of these groups may have relocated in Anchorage and other urban areas. The three groups are generally united by the heritage of a subsistence lifestyle, powerful ties to the land, and the fact that their ancestors are the earliest known inhabitants of Alaska.

13/ Glen Robertson; personal communications; Public Information Bureau of Indian Affairs, Juneau.

14/ Alaska Natives and the Land; Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska; Anchorage, Alaska; October 1968; U.S. Government Printing Office; Washington, D.C.; map pp. 5.

RACE OF THE POPULATION BY CENSUS DIVISION, ALASKA: 1970

CENSUS DIVISION	TOTAL ALL RACES	WHITE	NATIVE TOTAL	ESKIMO	INDIAN	ALEUT	BLACK	FILIPINO	JAPANESE	OTHER
TOTAL	300382	236767	50654	27797	16276	6581	8911	1498	916	1636
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS	8057	5564	2063	30	61	1972	237	135	21	37
ANCHORAGE	124542	112965	4795	2282	1775	738	5147	425	471	739
ANGOON	503	114	383	2	371	10	0	4	0	2
BARROW-NORTH SLOPE	2663	330	2313	2302	10	1	14	0	1	5
BETHEL	7579	747	6752	6669	65	18	24	24	4	28
BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH	1147	922	186	35	20	131	31	0	1	7
BRISTOL BAY	3485	671	2763	1656	272	835	5	14	13	19
CORDOVA-MCCARTHY	1857	1529	284	12	49	223	2	35	3	4
FAIRBANKS	45864	40933	1876	802	1020	54	2580	45	107	323
HAINES	1504	1175	322	3	315	4	0	0	1	6
JUNEAU	13556	11422	1657	110	1477	70	106	283	27	61
KENAI-COOK INLET	14250	13047	963	103	478	382	105	81	20	34
KETCHIKAN	10041	8527	1260	22	1179	59	44	126	30	54
KOBUK	4434	534	3877	3869	8	0	5	0	1	17
KODIAK	9409	7215	1744	56	106	1582	157	183	41	69
KUSKOKWIM	2306	584	1673	924	745	4	35	1	10	3
MATANUSKA-SUSITINA	6509	6189	272	91	138	43	12	1	4	31
NOME	5749	1205	4471	4448	19	4	27	0	16	30
OUTER KETCHIKAN	1676	757	870	37	820	13	5	11	15	18
PRINCE OF WALES	2106	1497	587	12	567	8	6	1	0	15
SEWARD	2336	2067	246	101	56	89	4	12	4	3
SITKA	6109	4611	1341	83	1169	89	36	53	40	28
SKAGWAY-YAKUTAT	2157	1338	796	30	752	14	0	8	5	10
SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS	4179	3418	503	20	479	4	208	15	13	22
UPPER YUKON	1684	588	1077	163	907	7	13	1	2	3
VALDEZ-CHITINA-WHITTIER	3098	2378	701	110	413	178	9	0	3	7
WADE HAMPTON	3917	231	3671	3650	17	4	12	0	0	3
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG	4913	3759	1032	15	975	42	4	35	60	23
YUKON-KOYUKUK	4752	2450	2176	160	2013	3	83	5	3	35

FIGURE 14